

210029US3 DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Yuji MATSUYAMA, et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/886,213

FILED: June 22, 2001

FOR: HEAT TREATMENT METHOD, :  
HEAT TREATMENT  
APPARATUS AND  
TREATMENT SYSTEM

: EXAMINER: JOLLEY, K.

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1762

#5/B  
Amda  
4/24/03

**GROUP 1700**

APR 24 2003

**RECEIVED**

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated December 19, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 2, 5, 6, and 8 as follows:

1. (Cancel)

2. (Once Amended) A method to heat-treat a substrate coated with a coating solution

B<sup>1</sup> which oxidizes at a high temperature, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) lowering an oxygen concentration of a treatment atmosphere when a temperature of the substrate is lower than the temperature at which the coating solution oxidizes;

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